

Message Text

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44

ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 OPR-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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P 101212Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4771

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 1158

DEPARTMENT FOR A.

WHITE HOUSE FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE--CAPT. HOWE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (NROCKEFELLER) SN

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT--TOAST

REF: STATE 056444

1. PROPOSED VICE PRESIDENTIAL TOAST FORWARDED REFTEL APPEARS SATISFACTORY IN VIRTUALLY ALL RESPECTS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD SUGGEST TWO CHANGES:

(A) IN LIEU OF PRESENT SALUTATION, "MR. PRIME MINISTER, MRS. LEE, DISTINGUISHED HOSTS," WE WOULD HAVE, "MR. PRIME MINISTER, MRS. LEE, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN."

(B) TO PROVIDE A BICENTENNIAL FLAVOR AS WELL AS TO INJECT A MORE SERIOUS NOTE, SUGGEST THAT SECOND PARAGRAPH OF TOAST BEGINNING WITH WORDS "THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SINGAPORE..." BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS: "GLANCING BACK BRIEFLY FROM THE VANTAGE OF OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR, THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND THE UNITED STATES IS, I AM TOLD, RATHER INTERESTING. OUR FIRST CONSUL HERE, JOSEPH BALESTIER, WAS THE SON-IN-LAW OF THE FAMOUS AMERICAN PATRIOT, PAUL REVERE, WHO RODE THROUGH THE NIGHT OF APRIL 18, 1775, TO WARN THE MASSACHUSETTS COLONISTS OF THE

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APPROACHING BRITISH TROOPS. REMINDERS OF THIS EARLY TIE BETWEEN

SINGAPORE AND THE US MAY BE FOUND IN A SINGAPORE STREET, A SCHOOL, AND EVEN A SOCCER TEAM WHICH BEAR BALESTIER'S NAME. A MORE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE PERHAPS IS THE BALESTIER BELL WHICH REPOSES IN YOUR NATIONAL MUSEUM. CAST IN THE FAMOUS REVERE FOUNDRY IN BOSTON, THE BELL WAS PRESENTED TO ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH BY MRS. BALESTIER IN 1843. I UNDERSTAND THAT MR. BALESTIER FOUND SINGAPORE A FAIRLY RELAXED POST AS THE CLIPPER SHIPS THAT CAME FROM AMERICA STOPPED ONLY INFREQUENTLY. IT IS EVEN ALLEGED..." CONTINUE WITH TEXT PROVIDED IN REFTTEL.

2. MFA PROTOCOL DIVISION HAS INQUIRED AS TO POSSIBILITY OF OUR FURNISHING APPROVED TEXT OF VICE PRESIDENTIAL TOAST TO ASSIST GOS IN PREPARING PRIME MINISTER LEE'S STATEMENT. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER THIS PROCEDURE ACCEPTABLE. IF SO, WE WOULD OF COURSE REQUIRE APPROVED TEXT. IN RETURN, WE COULD REQUEST ADVANCE TEXT OF PM LEE'S TOAST. HOLDRIDGE

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